

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS CUSTODIANSHIP RESOLUTION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to express the Sense of Congress regarding the proper direction of U.S. efforts to maintain the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile in the post-Cold War era.

Currently, the Department of Energy's Stockpile Stewardship squanders billions of dollars on facilities to research and design new warheads, and continue nuclear weapons development as if the Cold War had never ended. In doing so, it bolsters nuclear weapons aspirations of other nations who follow our lead, and puts our real security at risk. It is time to stop this wasteful approach and develop a custodianship program more adequately suited to modern needs. The resolution I am introducing today urges DOE to cease its ill-advised stockpile stewardship program and develop a program that is less costly, less provocative, and less likely to spend billions on facilities with little relevance to the safety of the arsenal.

Many experts have suggested that there are alternatives to the Department of Energy's current stockpile stewardship program that can maintain the U.S. nuclear arsenal at a significantly lower cost. None of these alternatives have been seriously considered by DOE. In reality, many of the projects funded under this program are nothing more than a jobs program for nuclear scientists, but a jobs program with serious non-proliferation consequences. Other nations already look to our massive investment into nuclear weapons research and use it to justify their expanding nuclear programs.

To promote the kind of curatorship of the arsenal that is really needed with the end of the Cold War, I am today introducing a resolution which expresses support for a program that protects our national security without being a guise for new weapons programs that will further undermine the already unsteady international nuclear non-proliferation regime. This resolution expresses the Sense of Congress that the nuclear weapons stockpile can be maintained with a program that is far smaller, less expensive, and which does not require the facilities or experiments that are likely to be used for warhead design or development. In addition, the resolution urges the Secretary of Energy to direct the Department of Energy program for custodianship of the nuclear weapons arsenal towards less costly and less provocative methods and to cease the current stockpile stewardship plans of the Department.

It is my hope that this resolution will serve as a useful vehicle for educating the Congress and the public about the nature of the current

stockpile stewardship program and promoting a more informed debate and consideration of less destabilizing and costly alternatives. I urge my colleagues to join in cosponsoring this important resolution.

HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY, ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH—BEAVER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the stability of one's church is a source of strength for many people. The members of St. Valentine's Parish—Beaver, located in Beaver Township, Michigan, this weekend are celebrating their centennial of being a positive influence in the community.

Prior to 1888, Catholic pioneers who came to Kawkawlin, Michigan, had to travel ten to fifteen miles to St. Joseph Church in Auburn. Father Szulak, a Jesuit missionary from Detroit, began offering monthly services in 1888 at the home of John Nowak. On St. Valentine's Day that year, Bartholomew Zboralski donated five acres of land which were used for a school where church services were also held. Students were taught in both English and Polish. The first teacher at the school was Miss Cecilia Warczynski. Bishop Henry Richter of Detroit then asked Rev. Joseph Lewandowski, the administrator of St. Stanislaus Parish, and his assistant, Father Bieniawski, to attend to the needs of the people of this area. This action resulted in the formal establishment of St. Valentine's Parish—Beaver, 100 years ago.

Since the first official act at St. Valentine's—a baptism on February 14, 1898, the first marriage of John Rozek and Mary Grzegorzczak on September 27, 1898, and the first funeral of Victor Milkowski with burial in the church cemetery in the spring of 1898, this institution has been of great importance to the community.

A new church was built in 1909 during the pastorate of Father John Kaplanowski. The first baptism at the new facility took place on February 4. Lucy Tomczak was baptized just three days after her birth. The first funeral was for Anna Hyrek, who died on August 24 at the age of three. The first wedding was November 22, joining Anthony Solinski and Helen Kukla.

In 1947, Father Joseph Kaminski began the efforts to construct a new school. This modern four room school was completed in the fall of 1948, and is celebrating its own fiftieth anniversary this year as well. Sister Mary Angelica served as the first Principal. A new convent was built in 1959, and with its completion, more room was also available for the expanding needs of the school.

The church has had its own tragic events. A fire in the early 1920's destroyed the altar, which was replaced at a cost of \$600. And then on February 22, 1991, the church was hit by a truck, and suffered extensive damage.

Repairs this time cost \$571,411. Religious celebrations again returned to the parish center until a replacement facility was completed in 1993. In an ironic fashion, while Father Kaminski had celebrated the first mass in the church in 1908, the last mass celebrated before the accident was for the repose of his soul.

Father Richard Ratajczak, the current pastor, is originally from St. Valentine's Parish, having had the good fortune to live through much of its wonderful history. Father Ratajczak also celebrated his 40th anniversary as a priest last month.

Mr. Speaker, St. Valentine's Parish—Beaver has been a wonderful influence for the past 100 years. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing the parish many more blessed years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CENTRAL UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Central Union Elementary School. Central Elementary has been honored as a California Distinguished School. The faculty and students of Central Union Elementary exemplify excellence with exceptional student achievement.

Central Union is located in the outskirts of Lemoore, in Kings County. Central Union's heterogeneous groupings, extensive use of active learning projects, and popular extra-curricular programs take full advantage of richly diverse population and provide the students with opportunities to learn and play with children from different cultural, ethnic, linguistic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Central Union Elementary has over 308 diverse students in grades K–8. The student body is composed of 29% Native American, 4% African American, 28% Hispanic, and 39% White students. Central Union Elementary's motto: "Together, We Achieve" shows a tradition of support for, and pride in, their excellent educational program. Evidence of Central Union's history of quality education is seen in the large participation by parents in school events, traditional celebrations, and programs. 90% of the parents attended their recent parent-teacher conferences; 85% of the parents attended the programs and visited classrooms during Open House and Back to School Night last year.

Central Union Elementary places emphasis on student results. The school's educational strategies and practices are consistent with this goal. Their content and student performance standards aligned with and are as rigorous as the "Draft Interim Content and Performance Standards." Central Union Elementary has a safe, clean, friendly, orderly, and supportive environment for children. Parents

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